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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/706,002	11/11/2003	Tom Gus Gavrel	0271KR.44551	6530
7590	10/21/2005		EXAMINER	
Constance Gall Rhebergen Bracewell & Patterson LLP P.O. Box 61389 Houston, TX 77208-1389			LAWRENCE JR, FRANK M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1724	

DATE MAILED: 10/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/706,002	GAVREL ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Frank M. Lawrence	1724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 July 2005.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,2,4-9 and 11-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 3 and 10 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 2, 4-9 and 11-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gilmore (2003/0070919 A1).
3. Gilmore '919 teaches an electrocoagulation reaction chamber and method, including a surge tank (14) for receiving a liquid source, an ozone or oxygen injector (26, 28) connected to the surge tank, a pump (68) and valves (67) for providing pressurized liquid from the surge tank to an electrocoagulation vessel (12) capable of sustaining an elevated pressure, and a physical filter (69) connected to an effluent discharge side of the electrocoagulation vessel (figure 1, paragraphs 53, 54, 67, 68). The electrocoagulation vessel includes a frame (110), a head stock, a tail stock, side rails (112) connecting the head and tail stock, spacer plates (103) with slots on ears (116) moveably supported on the rails, a push plate (118) supported on the rails in parallel orientation to the spacer plates, a discharge port (54) through the head stock, a plurality of electrodes (101, 102) between the spacer plates and defining cavities with O-ring seals on the spacers for treatment of flowing liquid, a mixing tube in an inlet port of the coagulation vessel, and electric contacts (126) on the edges of the electrodes for connection with a power supply via conduits (128) and to provide electrical treatment to fluid in the cavities, wherein spacer plates

and electrodes can be moved along the rails for replacement or maintenance, and the configuration of ports in the electrodes providing mixing within the cavities (figures 9-14, paragraphs 79-90). The surge tank, valves and pump are capable of regulating pressure within the vessel.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 3 and 10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Amendment

5. The affidavit filed on July 27, 2005 under 37 CFR 1.131 has been considered but is ineffective to overcome the Gilmore reference.

6. The evidence submitted is insufficient to establish diligence from a date prior to the date of reduction to practice of the Gilmore reference to either a constructive reduction to practice or an actual reduction to practice. The declaration must state that the invention was conceived and *either reduced to practice or that applicant acted with due diligence to bring about a reduction to practice prior to the relevant date*. It appears that the invention was reduced to practice before the date, but such a statement must be made.

7. The evidence submitted is insufficient to establish a reduction to practice of the invention in this country or a NAFTA or WTO member country prior to the effective date of the Gilmore reference. This deficiency refers to the absence of a statement that the acts relied upon have been done in the US, or a NAFTA or WTO country. The affidavit states that the invention was conceived in the US but does not state whether reduction to practice occurred in the US.

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8. Lastly, 37 CFR 1.131 requires that all of the inventors must sign each declaration. Here, two signed one declaration and one signed the other, different declaration. See MPEP 715.04.

9. It appears that the correction of these three informalities after final will result in an effective affidavit. The outstanding objections and 112 rejections of the claims and specification have been overcome and are withdrawn.

Conclusion

10. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Frank M. Lawrence whose telephone number is 571-272-1161. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 7:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on 571-272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Frank M. Lawrence
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1724

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10-18-05